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PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATION COMPRISING HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE IN ADMIXTURE  
WITH AGGREGATION STABILISING AMOUNTS OF GLYCINE AND MANNITOL
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- (57) Claim

1. A parenteral pharmaceutical formulation of human growth hormone which is stabilized against aggregation comprising human growth hormone in admixture with aggregation stabilizing amounts of glycine and mannitol.

7. A method of reducing aggregation of human growth hormone in a parenteral formulation comprising admixing said human growth hormone with aggregation stabilizing amounts of glycine and mannitol.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

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Complete Specification for the invention entitled:

Pharmaceutical Growth Hormone Formulations

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us

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TITLE

## PHARMACEUTICAL GROWTH HORMONE FORMULATIONS

5                    Background of the Invention

Human growth hormone, also known as somatotropin, is an anterior pituitary hormone comprised of 191 amino acids and has a molecular weight of 22,000 daltons. It can be isolated from human pituitary glands or can be prepared biosynthetically as a result of advances in genetic engineering. At present there are two commercially available forms of the genetically engineered hormone, one of which is identical to native human growth hormone. The other form has an additional methionine residue at the N-terminus of the protein.

Human growth hormone is administered parenterally. A difficulty which has been encountered in the preparation of the pharmaceutical parenteral product has been that of aggregation of the human growth hormone upon storage. The present invention obviates this problem by providing parenteral formulations which are stabilized against aggregation of the human growth hormone.

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Summary of the Invention

5 The present invention is directed to a  
parenteral pharmaceutical formulation of human growth  
hormone. Said formulation comprises human growth  
hormone in admixture with aggregation stabilizing  
amounts of glycine and mannitol. Also disclosed  
and claimed is a method of reducing growth hormone  
aggregation in a parenteral formulation. Said method  
10 is effected by admixing human growth hormone with  
aggregation stabilizing amounts of glycine and mannitol.

Detailed Description of the Invention

15 The parenteral formulation of the present  
invention is stabilized against the aggregation of  
human growth hormone. As mentioned earlier, human  
growth hormone is commercially available as the native  
material isolated from human pituitary glands or as  
20 two biosynthetically produced forms, one of which is  
identical to the native material and the other having  
an additional methionine residue at the N-terminus.  
For purposes of the present invention, any one or  
a combination of the three may be present in the  
25 parenteral formulation although the biosynthetically  
produced material which is identical to native human  
growth hormone is preferred.

The formulations of the present invention contain human growth hormone in admixture with aggregation stabilizing amounts of glycine and mannitol. By "aggregation stabilizing amounts" is meant those amounts of glycine and mannitol which, when admixed with human growth hormone, produce a formulation which is stabilized against aggregation. By "stabilized against aggregation" is meant that less aggregation of human growth hormone occurs when said hormone is formulated with aggregation stabilizing amounts of glycine and mannitol than when human growth hormone is formulated in the absence of both glycine and mannitol. A preferred parenteral formulation of human growth hormone which is stabilized against aggregation is one containing human growth hormone, glycine and mannitol in a 1:1:5 weight ratio, respectively. While this is a preferred formulation, the skilled artisan will readily appreciate that amounts of any one of the three constituents outside of this preferred ratio containing aggregation stabilizing amounts of glycine and mannitol may produce additional preferred parenteral formulations of human growth hormone which are stabilized against aggregation.

The commercially available formulation is in the form of a lyophilized (i.e., freeze-dried) powder for reconstitution. Reconstitution of the formulation may be effected by the addition of a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle therefor which may be aqueous or non-aqueous in nature. Examples of aqueous vehicles include

water for injection, bacteriostatic water for injection, sterile water for injection and the like. Nonaqueous vehicles include corn oil, cottonseed oil, ethyl oleate, peanut oil, sesame oil and the like. The selection of the pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle will be merely a matter of choice for the skilled artisan, although the nonaqueous vehicles are more generally suited where prolonged duration of action is the goal. The actual product preparation is conventional in the art including, for example, container selection, sterilization, filling and sealing. Further information relating to parenteral product preparations may be obtained from standard treatises such as Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 17th Edition (1985), which is incorporated herein by reference.

In order to further illustrate the present invention, the following evaluations were conducted.

Various formulations containing human growth hormone, glycine and mannitol were prepared in the weight ratios shown in Table I and were placed in parenteral vials and lyophilized. Two vials of each formulation were maintained at 40° centigrade and assayed at 14 days and 30 days for percent decomposition and percent aggregation of human growth hormone.

The assay for decomposition was conducted by reverse phase high pressure liquid chromatography. The assay for aggregation of human growth hormone was by size exclusion chromatography. The results of these evaluations are shown in Table I.



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TABLE I

EXAMPLE	Formulation <sup>a</sup>	Percent Decomposition			Percentage Aggregation		
		At Day Shown			At Day Shown		
		0	14	30	0	14	30
1	1:0:0	2.3	6.6	8.1	1	2.2	5.9
2	1:6:0	1.3	2.2	6.2 <sup>b</sup>	1.6	2.4	3.9
3	1:0:6	1.4	1.9 <sup>b</sup>	4.7	1.3	2.0 <sup>b</sup>	4.0
4	1:1:3	1.4	2.5	—	0.6	1.3	—
5	1:1:5	1.3	1.7	3.8	0.9	1.1	2.3

<sup>a</sup>Weight ratio of human growth hormone:glycine:mannitol

<sup>b</sup>Only one of two samples assayed



As can be clearly seen from the data shown in Table I, the formulation containing human growth hormone, glycine and mannitol in a weight ratio of 1:1:5, respectively exhibited less decomposition and aggregation at days 14 and 30 than the formulations lacking either or both of glycine and mannitol. The composition containing human growth hormone, glycine and mannitol in a weight ratio of 1:1:3, respectively exhibited less aggregation at day 14 than the formulations lacking either or both of glycine and mannitol.

~~We Claim:~~

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A parenteral pharmaceutical formulation of human growth hormone which is stabilized against aggregation comprising human growth hormone in admixture with aggregation stabilizing amounts of glycine and mannitol.
2. The formulation of claim 1 wherein said human growth hormone, glycine and mannitol are present in a weight ratio of 1:1:5, respectively.
3. The formulation of claim 1 as a lyophilized powder.
4. The formulation of claim 2 as a lyophilized powder.
5. The formulation of claim 3 additionally containing a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.
6. The formulation of claim 4 additionally containing a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.
7. A method of reducing aggregation of human growth hormone in a parenteral formulation comprising admixing said human growth hormone with aggregation stabilizing amounts of glycine and mannitol.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein said human growth hormone, glycine and mannitol are present in a weight ratio of 1:1:5, respectively.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the parenteral formulation is a lyophilized powder.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the parenteral formulation is a lyophilized powder.

5 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the parenteral formulation additionally contains a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the parenteral formulation additionally contains a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

13. A parenteral pharmaceutical formulation of human growth hormone which is stabilized against aggregation substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Example 4 or 5.

14. A method of reducing aggregation of human growth hormone in a parenteral formulation substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Example 4 or 5.

DATED this FIFTH day of SEPTEMBER 1991  
Eli Lilly and Company

Patent Attorneys for the Applicant  
SPRUSON & FERGUSON



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